Grades 9 through 12

Historical and Social Sciences Analysis Skills

The intellectual skills noted below are to be learned through, and applied to, the content standards for grades 9 through 12. They are to be assessed only in conjunction with the content standards in grades 9 through 12. In addition to the standards for grades 9 through 12, students demonstrate the following intellectual, reasoning, reflection, and research skills.

HISTORICAL CHRONOLOGY AND INTERPRETATION

- 1. Students compare the present with the past, evaluating the consequences of past events and decisions and determining the lessons that were learned.
- 2. Students analyze how change happens at different rates at different times, understand that some aspects can change while others remain the same, and understand that change is complicated and affects not only technology and politics but also values and beliefs.
- 3. Students show the connections, causal and otherwise, between particular historical events and larger social, economic, and political trends and developments.
- Students recognize the complexity of historical causes and effects, including the limitations on determining cause and effect.
- 5. Students distinguish intended from unintended consequences.
- 6. Students interpret past events and issues within the context in which an event unfolded rather than present-day norms and values.
- 7. Students understand the meaning, implication, and impact of historical events and recognize that events could have taken other directions.
- 8. Students conduct cost-benefit analyses and apply basic economic indicators to analyze the aggregate economic behavior of the U.S. economy.

GEOGRAPHIC SKILLS

- 1. Students understand the influence of physical and human geographic factors on the evolution of significant historic events and movements. They apply the geographic viewpoint to local, regional, and world policies and problems.
- 2. Students use a variety of maps and documents to interpret human movement, including major patterns of domestic and international migration, changing environmental preferences and settlement patterns, the frictions that develop between population groups, and the diffusion of ideas, technological innovations, and goods. Identify major patterns of human migration, both in the past and present.
- 3. Students relate current events to the physical and human characteristics of places and regions. They identify the characteristics, distribution, and complexity of Earth's cultural mosaics.
- **4.** Students evaluate ways in which technology has expanded the capability of humans to modify the physical environment and the ability of humans to mitigate the effect of natural disasters.
- 5. Students hypothesize about the impact of push-pull factors on human migration in selected regions and about the changes in these factors over time. Students develop maps of human migration and settlement patterns at different times in history and compare them to the present.
- 6. Students note significant changes in the territorial sovereignty that took place in the history units being studied.

(continued)

Grades 9 through 12

GEOGRAPHIC SKILLS (continued)

- 7. Students study current events to explain how human actions modify the physical environment and how the physical environment affects human systems (e.g., natural disasters, climate, and resources). They explain the resulting environmental policy issues.
- 8. Students explain how different points of view influence policies relating to the use and management of Earth's resources.
- 9. Students identify patterns and networks of economic interdependence in the contemporary world.

HISTORICAL RESEARCH, EVIDENCE, AND POINT OF VIEW

- 1. Students distinguish valid arguments from fallacious arguments in historical interpretations (e.g., appeal to false authority, unconfirmed citations, *ad hominem* argument, appeal to popular opinion).
- 2. Students identify bias and prejudice in historical interpretations.
- 3. Students evaluate major debates among historians concerning alternative interpretations of the past, including an analysis of authors' use of evidence and the distinctions between sound generalizations and misleading oversimplifications.
- **4.** Students construct and test hypotheses; collect, evaluate, and employ information from multiple primary and secondary sources; and apply it in oral and written presentations.

- (G) = geography
- (E) = economics
- (P) = politics and government
- (R) = religious thought and ideas
- (S) = social impact of events
- (M) = military action
- (I) = intellectual thought